

AUG 4 1960

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Front
PageEdit
PageOther
Page

Date:

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CHIBAS CHECKED***Fidel Send
Us A Plant?***

CPYRGHT

An FBI investigation was under way today to determine whether Raul Chibas, one of the top men in the Fidel Castro hierarchy, is a true defector or a 'plant.'

Chibas arrived in Key West with his wife Tuesday aboard a 17-foot boat. Met by immigration and FBI agents, he was whisked to Miami and since has been kept hidden.

Usually when defectors from Cuba reach Florida and make application for political asylum, granting of sanctuary is routine. In most cases, they are paroled after questioning by immigration authorities.

In almost all cases, immigration authorities make no secret of the defectors' presence at immigration headquarters in the Justice Building, 3901 Biscayne Blvd. and interviews outside the building often follow.

But in Chibas' case, secrecy was clamped down after Chibas left Key West.

One official source said it "would be safe to assume" that Chibas is in federal custody.

An FBI spokesman in Washington said that the bureau's interest in Chibas stemmed from the possibility that he may not be actually a defector from the Castro regime.

"In all cases of this kind," this source said, "the true status of the person seeking asylum must be determined."

"If he is a bona fide defector, he becomes the responsibility of the Central Intelligence Agency, which is also investigating this case."

CIA is primarily engaged in intelligence from abroad.

If Chibas is a defector, the CIA could use any information he provides to counter Castro moves.

One of the concerns of the FBI is counter-intelligence within the country, and it is from this responsibility that the FBI's interest in Chibas stems.

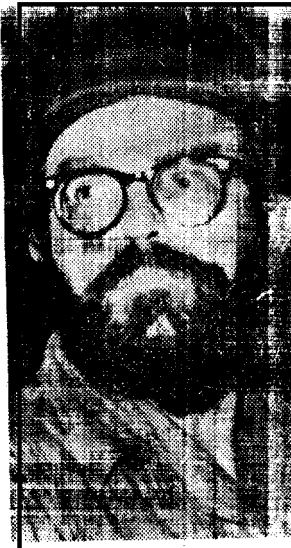
A possibility was also advanced in Washington that Chibas might appear before the Senate Internal Security sub-committee, which several months ago heard Maj. Mario Diaz Lanz, Castro's Air Force chief, who defected and fled to Miami.

J. G. Sourwine, the committee's counsel, said, "we're interested in interviewing Chibas if the situation hasn't jelled sufficiently yet."

"We really don't have the man's true background."

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**RAUL CHIBAS***In Hiding*